



PEGASUS THEATRE *presents*



**DEATH
EXPRESS!**

WRITTEN BY

KURT KLEINMANN

DIRECTED BY

MICHAEL SERRECCHIA

Dec. 29, 2023 through Jan. 21, 2024

Charles W. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts

2024 SEASON

PEGASUS THEATRE presents

DEATH EXPRESS!

written by KURT KLEINMANN

directed by MICHAEL SERRECCHIA

assistant director
DAYNA S. FRIES

production stage manager
JOHN HARVEY

produced by

KURT KLEINMANN, PENNY and ROY McCLURG, BARBARA WEINBERGER

production manager
DANE TUTTLE

technical director
JOSE TORRES

set designer
ROBERT H. WINN

costume designer
MICHAEL A. ROBINSON

wig designer
ROY TURPIN

makeup director
LESLIE PATRICK

lighting designer
ELIJAH REED

sound designer
KURT KLEINMANN

video director
CARLOS ROSALES

prop designer
ROWAN GILVIE

scenic artist
EMILY HAUEISEN

DEI advocates
DENISE LEE

backstage manager
BEN SCHROTH

assistant stage manager
ASH PETERMAN

BECKI McDONALD

Backstage Crew..... Rebecca Bongiorno
Makeup Technicians Joel Baird, Taylor Rossberg,
Christian Schmoker, and Juli Stalter
Men's Wardrobe SupervisorChris Edwards
Women's Wardrobe Supervisor Ray-Nita Powell
Wig TechniciansNicole Bellin and Jessi Chavez
Ballot SupervisorAubrey Tarantine
Merchandise Services..... Tim Armstrong and Isabelle Culpepper
Craft Services..... Tammy Ford
Box-office Liaison..... Terry Smith

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Kurt Kleinmann

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Barbara Weinberger

MANAGING DIRECTOR
John Harvey

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CAST of CHARACTERS

The Conductor..... Mario Aguirre IV
Nigel Grouse..... Ben Bryant
Detective Lt. Foster..... Chad Cline
Valentina Benet..... Alex Moore
Myrtle Ann Smith Liv Murphy
Iris Henderson Madison Murrah
Harry Hunsacker Scott Nixon
B.G. Charters..... Leslie Patrick
Philomena Wainwright..... Sheila D. Rose
P.B. Caldicott Jake Shanahan
Josephus Smith..... Michael Speck
Women’s Understudies..... Dayna S. Fries and Kellie Monahan-McElroy
Men’s Understudies Jared Culpepper, Salvador Elias,
and D. Aidan Wright
and
The Lady in Red..... Stephanie Felton

SETTING

September 28, 1938, aboard the Trans-Continental Express

Special Thanks

Alan Abair Photography
Dallas Costume Shoppe
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The staff and management of the

Charles W. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION.

Photography and the use of any audio or video recording devices is strictly prohibited.
Please silence or turn off all noise-making electronic devices.

December 29, 2023 – January 21, 2024, at the Charles W. Eisemann Center
2351 Performance Drive • Richardson, Texas 75082
(972) 744-4650 • www.eisemanncenter.com



This project is funded, in part, by the City of Richardson
through the City of Richardson Arts Commission.

Meet the Cast

MARIO AGUIRRE IV (The Conductor) makes his first appearance at Pegasus! Previous credits include two popcorn-throwing shows at the Pocket Sandwich Theater; Jonathan Harker in *Dracula - A Melodrama*, and Johnny in *Captain Phantasm vs. the Nefarious Dr. Noir*. He's excited to be integrating into the theatre community so well, and looks to get into camera and voice-overs in the near future.

CHAD CLINE (Detective Lt. Foster) has been producing Improv Comedy Shows at Theatre Three, go check them out! Between shows he has been traveling, teaching, performing improv at festivals, and finishing up his Masters Degree in Conflict Resolution and analysis at George Mason Universities Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School of Conflict resolution. This is his 13th year to put on the trenchcoat and have to deal with Harry. Hey Leslie! 11:11

STEPHANIE FELTON (The Lady in Red) returns to Pegasus for her seventh year with partner Scott Nixon. Earlier this year she performed in *Broadway Our Way* at Uptown Players, and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* at Mainstage Irving Las Colinas. Also this year, Stephanie welcomed her first grandbaby, Rya, and would love to show you her pictures! Much love also to her kids Caitlin, Ty, and Preston, and as always, many thanks to Kurt and Barb for the honor of carrying this wonderful role alongside her sweetheart.

KELLIE MONAHAN-MCELROY (Iris Henderson and Valentina Benet Understudy) is so excited to return to Pegasus where she was last seen as Tracy Sloan in the RadioVizion production of *Mind over Murder!* in 2023. She was seen most recently as Mollie Ralson in Luminosity Theater's *Mousetrap*. Other recent roles include Peaseblossom in Oh Look! Theater's *Midsummer Night's Dream* and Understudy for Roz/Eileen for Luminosity Theater's *Moon over Buffalo*. She has also been seen as Karla in *Wonder of the World* and Katherine in *Henry V*. She thanks her family for their support and her wife for inspiring and encouraging her.

ALEX MOORE (Valentina Benet) resists hibernation for her 12th year with Pegasus! Her most favorite roles within the company are Jean Hudson (*XSR: Die!* and *The Dimension of Death!*), and Gloria (*Another Murder, Another Show!*). Alex is also a voice actor with Crunchyroll, lately heard as Suzuno in *The Devil is a Part-Timer!* and Rhea Fighter in *Goblin Slayer*. When not onstage or in the booth, Alex builds costumes and LARPs for fun and profit. Follow her on not-Twitter @alexmooreactor and her website AlexMooreActor.com

LIV MURPHY (Myrtle Ann Smith) returns to Pegasus after recently appearing as Nicole in *The Robotics of Love and Longing* and The Abbess in *The Art of Martyrdom* for the 2023 *Fresh Reads Festival*. No stranger to Living Black & White™ productions, Liv was last seen stepping in for Madge in *The Dimension of Death!* and as Iris Jenkins in *A Minor Case of Murder!* Other on-stage credits include *A 3D Adventure* at Circle Theatre, *A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens* at Dallas Children's Theater, *Perfect Arrangement* at Uptown Players, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Lily & Joan Theatre Company.

LESLIE PATRICK (B.G. Charters, Makeup Director) has worked with multiple Dallas area theatres as an actor and behind the scenes. She has performed in too many Living Black & White™ productions with Pegasus Theatre to name. (And they are all her favorite!) She has also worked with Echo Theatre, Circle Theatre, Plano Repertory Theatre, Act I Productions, Theatre Three, Audacity Productions, Uptown Players, and The Bathhouse Theatre Collective. Some of her favorite roles include *52 Pick-up* (Woman), *The Collection* (Stella), *Arsenic & Roses* (Katherine), *Die, Mommie, Die!* (Edith), *Mauritius* (Jackie), and *Boy Gets Girl* (Harriet). This one goes out to Mark and Greg, hope we did it justice. So happy Chad finally got to see this show.

JAKE SHANAHAN (P.B. Caldicott) returns to Pegasus Theatre having previously done their summer *Fresh Reads* twice, one in 2017 and one in 2019. He was last seen at Pocket Sandwich Theatre as Frank in *How the Other Half Loves* and Mitchell Lovell in *Murder at the Howard Johnson's*. A 2007 graduate from KD Studios, Jake has worked in the DFW theatre area extensively for the last 13 years and is stoked to be making his Living Black & White™ debut with Pegasus! Jake would like to thank the cast/crew for their talents and friendship and his partner Tim for his love and support.

D. AIDAN WRIGHT (Josephus/Conductor/Harry Hunsacker Understudy) is excited to be donning the coveted Living Black & White™ makeup for the first time. Aidan understudied for Lt. Foster in the RadioVizion production of *XSR: Die!*; he also has played Boris (*Fresh Reads 2020*), Shia LaBeouf, Captain Crunch, and Fred (*Fresh Reads 2019*), and the Policeman (*The Cuban and the Redhead*). Banquo in Stolen Shakespeare Guild's *Macbeth* was one of Aidan's favorite roles. Appearances at other theaters include Pocket Sandwich Theater, Theatre Frisco, and Theater Arlington. Aidan is a set designer as well, his most recent work goes up in February with SSG's Shakespeare Festival: *Romeo and Juliet* and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Meet the Designers, Production Staff, and Crew

ISABELLE CULPEPPER (Merchandise Sales) loves working with Pegasus, where she's had the fortune to be in a few Radiovizion™ shows over the past few years. Isabelle enjoys performing onstage more than anything else in the world, and has worked with several theatres in the DFW metroplex. She has also worked on Pegasus mainstage shows in a backstage capacity over the years, just to be part of the magic. She's excited to be in merchandise sales this year so she can be the one to hand over the one-of-a-kind souvenirs from the show that she knows patrons treasure.

CHRIS EDWARDS (Men's Wardrobe Supervisor) is proud to return to Pegasus behind the scenes. Chris has worked both on and off stage at many theatres around the DFW metroplex.

TAMMY FORD (Craft Services Supervisor) is a self proclaimed chef or just a woman who loves food and to make sure those she cares about are well fed. She's a huge fan of Pegasus Theatre and it's her pleasure to help out where she can!

DAYNA S. FRIES (Assistant Director, Wainwright and Myrtle Ann Understudy) is an actor, prop designer, stage manager, and on the Theatre Operations team of Dallas College. She was last seen in Living Black & White™ as Pirate Patty in *The Dimension of Death!* Other Pegasus credits include Nurse Crabtree (*Death on Delivery!*) and Props Designer for *The Color of Death!* Favorite acting credits include two turns as Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Blanche Debois in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*. She has performed for L.I.P. Service Productions, Jubilee Theatre, Resolute Theatre Company, Undermain Theatre, Arts Fort Worth, Firehouse Theatre, Theatre Brookhaven, Bishop Arts Theatre Company, and MSB Productions.

JOHN HARVEY (Production Stage Manager, Graphic Designer) is once again running things from backstage, where he has always been happiest. This is his 19th Living Black & White™ production. He extends his gratitude to Barbara Rhodes for keeping him (mostly) sane.

KURT KLEINMANN (Artistic Director, Playwright) is the founder of Pegasus Theatre and the author of numerous plays. He is a member of The Dramatists Guild and Actor's Equity Association and a co-founder and Past President of the Dallas Theatre League from 1992 to 1996. Mr. Kleinmann has received many awards for his work in theatre, including a 1995 Leon Rabin Award for Sound Design; the 1997 Ken Bryant Vision Award from

The 500 Inc.; and the 2005 Standing Ovation Award from the Dallas Theatre League.

ASH PETERMAN (Assistant Stage Manager) is incredibly excited to be joining the Pegasus team! Some of their recent work includes *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* with Shakespeare Dallas (Wardrobe Assistant), *The Laramie Project* at Dallas College (Stage Manager) and *Dry Clean Only* at Theatre Three (Sound and Lighting Operator). When not working on a show, they are an apprentice pyrotechnician who plans to become fully licensed this year.

RAY-NITA POWELL (Women's Wardrobe Supervisor) is back for a third year with Pegasus working behind the scenes. She has been seen around the DFW area as Betty Fraizer (*The Half Ain't Never Been Told*), Ramona (*Burlesque Nutcracker*), Calpurnia (*To Kill a Mockingbird*), Harriet (*Sarah's Poem*), and Aretha Thomas (*Legends*). Her favorite performances have been in musicals with her former students as the Wicked Witch (*The Wizard of Oz Jr.*) and Grace Ferrell (*Annie Jr.*). Ray-Nita is a graduate of the Tom Todoroff Conservatory in New York and is represented by Linda McAlisterTalent.

MICHAEL A. ROBINSON (Costume Designer) is happy to be back with Pegasus Theatre after costuming many Living Black & White™ productions, as well as appearing in *Clowning Around With Murder!* Other recent roles include Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady* and Roger DeBris in *The Producers* for Garland Summer Musicals. He recently starred in the new work, *As We Lie Still*, at the Pearl Theatre in New York. When not in a Theatre somewhere, Michael can be found at his store, The Dallas Costume Shoppe, or at Brookhaven College where he teaches acting. A multitalented artist, Michael designed and created the puppet characters for Theatre Three's award-winning *Avenue Q*. Michael also designed the costumes for a BBC television documentary about Bonnie and Clyde. Michael received a Leon Rabin Award for Costumes in 2003 for GSM's *42nd Street*.

BEN SCHROTH (Backstage Manager) is an award-winning North Texas actor, technician, and playwright. He wrote the play *Sherlock Holmes vs. Godzilla* (winner of the Steve Lovett Award for Outstanding New Work by a Local Playwright). His adaptation of Chekhov's *Cherry Orchard* opened the inaugural season of the Classics Theatre Project. He is a past founding member of Upstart Productions. Ben has worked more than twenty seasons in various positions with Pegasus Theatre—acting, directing and stage managing. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America, Inc. *Sherlock Holmes Vs. Godzilla* is now available through Next Stage Press.

MICHAEL SERRECCHIA (Director) is back for his 11th Living Black & White™ Murder Mystery – HOORAY! After 18 years of performing on Broadway he relocated to Dallas to begin a career as a director and choreographer, and has worked at most of the professional theatres in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, including WaterTower, Theatre Three, The Dallas Children's Theatre, Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, Mainstage Irving Las Colinas, The Spectacular Senior Follies at the Eisemann, Uptown Players, Garland Summer Musicals, Rockwall Summer Musicals, and Theatre Arlington. He has been honored with many awards and is most grateful. Among them: New York Drama Desk Award, Theatre World Award, Gypsy of the Year 2000, and the prestigious Natalie Skelton Award for Artistic Excellence. Michael was also honored at the Public Theatre in New York City for his contributions to the American Musical. Michael is the Musical Theatre Degree Program Chair at KD Conservatory College.

TERRY SMITH (Box Office Liaison) is just happy to be here.

JULIANA STALTER (Makeup Technician) is so happy to rejoin Pegasus in her third production with this amazing company. When not monochromizing hands, she performs and teaches comedy around the metroplex. She can also be seen, monthly, as a title character in *The Writer and the Rancher* at the Aldredge House on Swiss Avenue. Prior to returning to DFW in 2018, she enjoyed performing at regional theaters in the Rheinland of Germany. By day, she works as a school counselor to support her theater habit. @star.lter

JOSÉ TORRES (Technical Director) is a graduate of Texas Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and is honored to be working with Pegasus Theatre as technical director. He loves anything technical theatre-related and works where he can at other local theaters including Second Thought Theatre, Grand Prairie Arts Council, and Hip Pocket Theatre. José is also an active member in the IATSE local unions. He would like to thank everyone involved in the production for being so kind and hardworking. Teamwork makes the dreamwork!

BARBARA WEINBERGER (Co-Producer, Pre-Show Speaker) is a producer, problem-solver, and public speaker who has worked with Pegasus Theatre for the past 34 years. She is also the wife and editor for her amazing husband, Kurt Kleinmann, and looks forward to many more years of theatrical adventures together.

THE MASTER OF SUSPENSE

Alfred Hitchcock (1899–1980) was one of the most influential filmmakers in cinematic history, directing more than 50 feature films over the course of a career that spanned six decades.

Due to the numerous interviews he gave, his cameo appearances in many of his own films, and the popular television anthology series, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, Hitchcock himself became as well known as many of the actors who appeared in his films, a list that includes a veritable *Who's Who* of the Golden Age of Hollywood, such as Cary Grant, Joan

Fontaine, Laurence Olivier, Ingrid Bergman, Gregory Peck, Grace Kelly, James Mason, Tallulah Bankhead, Henry Fonda, Marlene Dietrich, and James Stewart.

His keen sense of storytelling, innovative camera techniques, and deep understanding of the psyche of the moviegoing public ensure that Hitchcock's body of work will endure as a shining example of cinematic excellence for generations to come.

Death Express! contains dozens of references to The Master's films and life. So pervasive is his influence that, even if you have only a passing familiarity with his work, you'll undoubtedly find yourself thinking, "Wait, is that another Hitchcock film title?" more than once tonight.

The answer is probably "yes."



Your donations are critical!

They allow us to continue to bring you the annual Living Black & White™ gala production of new comedy-murder-mysteries, featuring the inept but endearing detective Harry Hunsacker, as well as other new and original comedies in a professional setting, highlighting the talents of North Texas theatre artists.

In a well-run theatre, ticket prices typically generate about a third of the budget. Non-profit theaters are expected to show community support by getting another third from individual donors like you. The final third comes from corporations and foundations. All donations to Pegasus Theatre are deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Pegasus is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a charitable institution under section 501(c)(3) of the tax code.

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